

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 9, 11, 12, 14 through 17, and 32 through 47 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 17 have been amended. Claims 10, 13, and 18 through 31 have been canceled, and new claims 32 through 47 have been added. As suggested by the Examiner, original claims 10, 13, 18, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form and are presented as new claims. Specifically, new claim 32 corresponds to original claim 10, new claim 33 corresponds to original claim 13, and new claims 34 through 47 correspond to original claims 18 through 31. The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter set forth in these claims is allowable. No new matter has been added to the application by this amendment, nor have any new issues been raised.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action asserts that claims 17 and 29 are indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 17 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention, and claim 29 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action asserts that under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), claims 1 through 9, 11, 12, and 14 through 17 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,658,936 to Matsumoto.

Matsumoto discloses an apparatus for measuring uniformity and dynamic balance of a tire. The apparatus includes a spindle rotatably supported in a housing, with a tire fixedly mounted on the spindle. A motor rotationally drives the spindle using a belt. The apparatus also includes at least one piezoelectric force sensor mounted on a surface of the spindle housing. The force sensor detects a force generated by rotation of the tire as the spindle is rotated.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites a device for measuring the rotational unbalance of an article. The device includes a spindle unit and an electric motor rotatably driving the spindle via a drive belt. The device also includes a sensor arrangement for measuring the unbalance force during rotation of the spindle and a holder suspension for fastening the spindle unit to a machine base. The spindle unit and the electric motor are combined into a first preassembled subassembly and the holder suspension and the sensor arrangement are combined into a second preassembled subassembly. The two subassemblies carry connecting elements assigned to one another in an indexed manner, for the operationally releasable fastening of the subassemblies to one another.

It is respectfully submitted that Matsumoto fails to disclose or suggest combining a spindle unit and an electric motor into a preassembled subassembly. In fact, Matsumoto discloses just the opposite—a motor and a spindle assembly that are separately attached to a base. The disclosure of Matsumoto indicates that the spindle unit is mounted on the base of the

measuring apparatus. *See* Figure 1; col. 8, lines 10-11. Matsumoto also indicates that the spindle driving motor is fixed on the base. *See* Figure 1; col. 11, lines 34-37.

Matsumoto also fails to disclose or suggest a second preassembled subassembly that includes a holder suspension and a sensor arrangement. Contrary to the assertion of the Office Action, the fixing plate and piezoelectric force sensors disclosed by Matsumoto are not combined into a preassembled subassembly. Matsumoto discloses that threaded bars are used to secure the sensor fixing plate to the force sensors. The threaded bars are screwed through a plurality of through holes on the plate and the inner surface of the piezoelectric sensors, and a nut is attached to each of the threaded bars and pressed against the sensor fixing plate toward the housing of the spindle. *See* col. 11, lines 11-31. Removing the nuts and unscrewing the threaded bars would result in the release of both the force sensors and fixing plate. In other words, the force sensors and fixing plate are not combined into a preassembled subassembly.

Additionally, Matsumoto fails to disclose or suggest the feature of two subassemblies that carry connecting elements assigned to one another in an indexed manner to releasably fasten the subassemblies to one another. The Office Action asserts that the threaded bars disclosed in Matsumoto anticipate the claimed connecting elements. However, the threaded bars do not form a part of a preassembled subassembly and they are not indexed.

For at least the reasons given above, claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over Matsumoto; withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

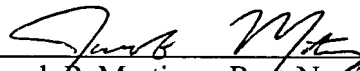
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims now pending in the subject application, namely claims 1 through 9, 11, 12, 14 through 17, and 32 through 47, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should any further information be required to facilitate allowance of the subject application, the Examiner may contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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